

1352

JPRS 69247

14 June 1977

TRANSLATIONS ON USSR MILITARY AFFAIRS
No. 1279

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A
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BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET		1. Report No. JPRS 69247	2.	3. Recipient's Accession No.	
4. Title and Subtitle TRANSLATIONS ON USSR MILITARY AFFAIRS, No. 1279				5. Report Date 14 June 1977	
				6.	
7. Author(s)				8. Performing Organization Rept. No.	
9. Performing Organization Name and Address Joint Publications Research Service 1000 North Glebe Road Arlington, Virginia 22201				10. Project/Task/Work Unit No.	
				11. Contract/Grant No.	
12. Sponsoring Organization Name and Address As above				13. Type of Report & Period Covered	
				14.	
15. Supplementary Notes					
16. Abstracts The report contains information on the Soviet military and civil defense establishments, leadership, doctrine, policy, planning, political affairs, organization, and equipment.					
17. Key Words and Document Analysis. 17a. Descriptors USSR Military Organizations Military Facilities Military Personnel					
17b. Identifiers/Open-Ended Terms					
17c. COSATI Field/Group 15C					
18. Availability Statement Unlimited availability. Sold by NTIS, Springfield, Va. 22151				19. Security Class (This Report) UNCLASSIFIED	
				20. Security Class (This Page) UNCLASSIFIED	
				21. No. of Pages 48	
				22. Price A03	

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FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ON PREVIOUSLY REPORTED DEFICIENCIES

Illegal Sale of Alcoholic Beverages

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Jan 77 p 2

[Text] An article published on 7 December 1976 entitled "A Bonus Bottle" related cases of the sale of alcoholic beverages at voyentorg [trade establishment for military personnel] stores not having permission to do so. This illegal trade was conducted in order to fulfill the goods turnover plan and receive bonuses.

The chief of the Kolomenskiy Higher Artillery Command School Major General of Artillery A. Baysara and the acting chief of the school's political division Colonel M. Chirkun report that the cases of the sale of alcoholic beverages at the store, located on school grounds, really took place. A check was made to see if the voyentorg store workers were carrying out the requirements governing the sale of alcoholic beverages. The chief of the store who was mentioned in the article, N. Mikhal'tseva, was severely reprimanded by order of voyentorg for violating this procedure.

According to the chief of the trade directorate of the Moscow garrison Colonel N. Sadovnikov, the article "A Bonus Bottle" was discussed at a conference of the management of the organizations and enterprises of the directorate. They agreed that the criticism was correct. They planned to take measures warning against the shortcomings which were noted.

In an answer sent to the editorial board, the acting chief of the trade directorate of the Moscow Military District Captain of Supply Service Ye. Kruglov says that the newspaper article was discussed at a meeting of the party bureau and at an official conference of the directorate workers, and also in all of the district voyentorgs. The voyentorg chief comrade Shvydskiy and the deputy chief of voyentorg comrade Nosenko received reprimands because of a lack of control which made possible the violation of the rules for selling alcoholic beverages.

The store director N. Samorodova, the chief of the store division F. Chernova and the administrator M. Kosheleva were also reprimanded.

The trade directorate organized an investigation among all of the workers of the district voyentorgs on the existing conditions governing the sale of alcoholic beverages. The total of earnings from vodka sales will not be considered when assessing the operation of stores and enterprises catering to the public. We observe, incidentally, that this coincides with the wishes expressed by Major General (retired) V. Gridnev and other readers who sent in comments on the article.

Officer Promotion Delay

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 May 77 p 2

[Text] On 29 January of this year correspondence from Lieutenant Colonel of Engineers B. Lyapkalo, entitled "How They Taught the Lieutenant a Lesson," was published. It described the unwarranted delay in promoting Lieutenant V. Mel'nik and other legal breaches in the relationships between chiefs and subordinates. As reported in the reply signed by Colonel Ye. Popov, the facts stated in the correspondence have been confirmed.

The letter was discussed with the management of the units [chasti]. It was made clear to all commanders and political workers that the appeal, in any form, by military personnel to the editorial boards of newspapers and magazines is not a violation of the disciplinary regulations of the Armed Forces of the USSR. Colonel Engineer D. Bashtan was disciplined for delaying the promotion of Lieutenant Mel'nik.

Complaint About Quality of Souvenirs

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Mar 77 p 2

[Text] Critical material from Yu. Romanov (Major) was published in the 16 December 1976 issue of KRSNAYA ZVEZDA under the headline "Begging a Souvenir at the Counter." This was prompted by a visit to the reception room of the editorial staff by the people's skilled craftsman, reserve private V. Azizov from Astrakhan'.

We have answers from the interested departments in front of us. One of them was signed by the deputy minister of local industry of the RSFSR B. Sorokin. Judging by this document, there are simply no problems connected with the production of high-quality souvenirs. For example, the reply states that souvenirs and gifts commemorating the 30th anniversary of victory were produced in even greater numbers than the trading organizations ordered; in the republic's local industrial system, 23 enterprises are now engaged in the output of military theme souvenirs. In short, the feeling in the ministry is that the newspaper should not have bothered.

However, was it really in vain? The local industry administration of the Astrakhan' oblast soviet, on the contrary, believes that the problems raised in the article "Begging a Souvenir at the Counter" are real and require solutions because "military theme souvenirs are being inadequately produced by industry." The council of artists in the Astrakhan' oblispolkom also shares this opinion.

The reply of the deputy chief of GUT MO [Main Directorate of Trade of the USSR Ministry of Defense/ Major General of Supply Service V. Bondarenko states that "the newspaper article is correct in its comments on the questions concerning the production, ordering and trade in souvenirs. Although the sale of souvenirs through voyentorg [trade establishment for military personnel/ stores has grown by 2.5-3 times during the last 4-5 years, this growth still is not satisfying customer demands. Even at the rich exhibition of souvenirs which opened at the USSR VDNKh, the circulation of popular articles was very small...."

A military customer has particular complaints about the quality and variety of the articles. "Thus, besides badges, the RSFSR Ministry of Local Industry suggested only inexpressive stone articles and some other souvenirs not in demand for the 30th anniversary of the victory, and GUT MO was obliged to turn down an order for some."

In line with the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA statement, the main trade directorate issued a special directive. It was suggested to the trade directorate chiefs of the military districts and fleets, the voyentorg chiefs and the chief of Voyentorgbaza [trade establishment for military personnel facility/ that they take measures to improve the study of the demand for souvenirs and increase their sales volume. The setting up of special sales sections for selling badges and souvenirs has been proposed in each district and garrison department store and large manufactured goods shop.

Unfortunately, the position of the USSR Ministry of Trade is unknown, as usual, to the editorial board. In spite of a reminder, an answer has never arrived from this ministry.

Indoctrination Deficiencies

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Mar 77 p 2

[Text/ An article by Colonel V. Izgarshev was published in the 20 February 1977 issue under the headline "And What Kind of Plan?" As a member of the military soviet, the chief of the political directorate of the Siberian Military District Lieutenant General I. Lykov reported to the editorial board, the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA statement was correct, timely and necessary. The article was discussed in the district political directorate. It was decided to focus the attention of the political directorate officers on the organizational work of introducing an over-all approach to the education of the troops immediately in the units [chasti/ and subunits [podrazdeleniya/]. With the participation of the political directorate

workers, the article was discussed in the political section of the unit [soyedineniye] and at a meeting of the unit's [chasti] party committee. Concrete measures were planned for further improving the ideological work in the units [chasti].

The political directorate gave instructions to discuss the contents of the article in all of the district's political organs and control is accomplished by taking concrete measures on their part to improve ideological work. Thus, a group of workers of the political directorate and editorial staff of the district newspaper SOVIET FIGHTER has studied the techniques of organizing an over-all approach toward educating the soldiers from one of the units [chast'], and at present material about this experience is being prepared.

Instructional and methodology lessons on the question "the content, form and work methods in the regiment on the implementation of an over-all approach to ideological work" have been conducted at district gatherings of the newly appointed unit commanders and deputy commanders for political affairs.

The political directorate heard a report by the political worker Lieutenant Colonel M. Tyushko on the work in the unit in introducing an over-all approach to personnel training.

The question concerning the work of the commanders and political organs in fulfilling the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress on introducing an over-all approach in the practice of educational work will be considered at a meeting of the district military soviet. A scientific and practical seminar on the topic "forms and work methods of the political section for the implementation of an over-all approach to ideological work" is being prepared with the chiefs of the political organs.

Abuse of Personnel

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Mar 77 p 2

[Text] The correspondence published under the headline "Offenses" in the 18 February issue of KRSNAYA ZVEZDA concerned the improper relations in a military unit [chast'] which had grown as the consequence of the neglect of prescribed requirements.

The chief of the political section of the headquarters and administration of the Turkestan Military District Colonel A. Slobodyan reported to the editorial board that the events stated in the newspaper article took place.

The newspaper's statement was discussed in the political section of the district headquarters and administration, at a conference of officers and a meeting of the unit's party committee.

The deputy commander for rear services, the communist Lieutenant Colonel I. Petrukhin was expelled from the party for abuse of his status by decision of the party commission at the political section.

Taking into account that the chief of the regimental staff, the communist officer A. Pilipas, had an entirely positive record during many years of service and also because he correctly evaluated his errors and assured the party committee that in the future he would not display rudeness toward subordinates, the party committee confined itself to a severe warning in his case.

The party committee pointed out to the communist M. Moskalenko his improper attitude toward a critical statement by the communist R. Dubinichev at the party meeting.

The command and the party committee of the unit mapped out concrete measures for strengthening the educational work with the officers and warrant officers [praporshchik] and on reinforcing the prescribed relationships among servicemen.

8524
CSO: 1801

IRREGULARITIES IN MILITARY CONSTRUCTION UNIT

Report on Noted Irregularities

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Feb 77 p 4

[Article by Col A. Drovosekov: "Topical Satire: The Bathhouse Disappears at Midnight"]

[Text] ...A dark sky hung over the post. There was a disquieting tenseness in the air. The wind stole like a robber through the bare branches of the birch trees. Vague shadows moved along the snow-covered paths. It was cold and sinister. Exactly at midnight the shadows approached a low log building and someone's muffled voice said:

"Let's work by the disposition. And without noise. Clear?"

"Clear," rang out the answer.

"Then forward lads! Carthage must be destroyed!"

We will not vouch for the literal accuracy of the cited dialog. It was not taken down in shorthand. But Carthage, that is to say the bathhouse set aside for a specific group of people, was actually destroyed by order of Engineer-Colonel V. Shalyapin, the commander of X Military Construction Unit. The dismantling of the steam room-bath building was carried out twenty-four hours before the author of these lines arrived at the scene of the events described. And, furthermore, it was carried out under conditions of great secrecy.

"I was on my way to work in the morning," Warrant Officer (Praporshchik) L. Grishayev shared his impressions with me, "I looked--there was no bathhouse! It had disappeared! Yesterday evening it was still standing and today it's as if the wind blew it away. Without a trace! An even spot sprinkled with new fallen snow--and that's it. It's a pity...."

"What's a pity?"

"The bathhouse, of course. It was a good bathhouse. I was the manager. I saw to it that it was completely ready by the designated time. But now I have a question: why was it torn down? Why was that necessary?"

Comrade Grishayev's idea deserved attention. It was necessary to relate it to the billeting service bookkeeper, A. Solov'yeva.

"A bathhouse?"--Antonina Andreyevna was amazed. "We don't have any bathhouse on the account. And our service did not draw up any documents for construction of one."

"But, see here, a bathhouse could not spring up all by itself from nothing."

"That is not my business. A bathhouse does not appear on the account--and that's that!"

Such a turn of events only strengthened interest in the mysterious appearance and even more mysterious disappearance of the bathhouse. In the end, this is roughly the picture that appeared. One could say that nobody expressly built the bathhouse. Somehow everything turned out unexpectedly. Young, future specialists were training in carpentry, joining and other work, for a day, a week, perhaps a month, and they built something or other. They looked at it attentively and exclaimed: a bathhouse! With a steam room, a small bath and...a telephone. However, the bathhouse did not appear on the billeting service tables. The building which "unexpectedly" appeared became, as it were, a training object. And the fate of such an object is well-known: it is built, then torn down. However, why at night?

"There was a lot of unnecessary talk about this bathhouse. It reached the senior commander and he ordered it torn down. And he set the time--2400," explained Comrade Shalyapin. "So, of course, it was necessary to work at night. And also less people would see it...."

That's all correct. There really was talk. People wanted to know on what basis and by what means the bathhouse was built, and why entrance to it was only open to strictly designated people.

The exact determination of how and by what means the bathhouse was built was not successful. And, understandably, the register of honored steam room visitors was not found. You don't leave unnecessary evidence in a place where you would have to conceal all traces in the tub, that is to say in the water, in order to come out of the water dry.

It would be possible to end with this if the bathhouse story was a single, accidental violation of established order. Unfortunately, the facts compellingly lead to the conclusion that this is not an accident in a chain of other violations. Violations which you would not readily discern. Here is another example.

It is completely understandable and there was nothing surprising in the fact that on 20 November 1974 Captain Ivan Dmitriyevich Kozlov arrived at the Gor'kiy Oblast Military Commissariat for young draftees. It is what is called an ordinary matter. The fact that Andrey Ivanovich Konovalov and Yuriy Vsevolodovich Antonov appeared on the list of the crew accepted by the captain also did not attract attention. They were both sent to serve in the military construction detachment at garrison X and they arrived there the evening of the same day, 20 November. But here something unusual happened--in the morning they found themselves...in their hometown. Let's point out that this city and garrison X have completely different geographical coordinates.

And this detail is also remarkable. The 21 November 1974 order registering Konovalov and Antonov in the unit headed by Comrade Shalyapin states that they arrived from such-and-such a military unit for further military service. From this, it follows that the draftees became soldiers, served in a military unit and arrived at a new assignment having made a trip of 600 km, all in the course of a night.

Such a surprising service beginning had a no less surprising continuation. It looked this way for Konovalov: military student--squad leader--military student. Student right up to his transfer to the reserve in November 1976.

What is the matter here? Why did Konovalov turn out to be a student again after having been a squad leader for about three months? In the words of the subunit commander, Lieutenant Colonel A. Glushkov, because Konovalov did not have the necessary leadership qualities. It is possible that this is so, although the unofficial version appears more convincing: fulfilling a squad leader's responsibilities would have interfered with Konovalov's...studies at the institute. But being a military student, or more accurately being counted as one, is good in all respects. There are hardly any work demands--unless you are taken for details. And there are no delays when you have to drive to the institute. Just write a report: "Request an official trip to Gor'kiy to fulfill assigned tasks," and the resolution appears on the spot: "I petition on the basis...."

"But what could be done?" said Lieutenant Colonel A. Glushkov. "It is necessary to carry out the instructions of superiors."

"My part was small," the company training commander, Major N. Fedchishin, echoed Comrade Glushkov. "I was told not to hinder Konovalov, so I didn't hinder him."

"I knew that Junior Sergeant Konovalov was carried as a military student and studied at the institute by correspondence," said Captain V. Poltoryak, the battalion deputy commander for political affairs, "but somehow I didn't attach any importance to it."

That's great. One was carrying out instructions, another didn't hinder it and the third didn't think it was important. These are rather strange

explanations. But it was even stranger and more surprising that Engineer-Colonel V. Shalyapin could say absolutely nothing definite concerning Konovalov. For some reason, Viktor Ivanovich didn't know that there was a correspondence student with military student status in the unit entrusted to him.

Comrade Shalyapin also did not clear up the situation of Yuriy Antonov whose service also distinguished itself by its picturesque originality. He was carried on the orchestra staff, but did not take part in the parades: he was attached to the unit museum either as a designer or as a tour guide. He did not have a great deal to do, but it was an excellent opportunity to combine service with study at the local branch of the institute.

It is not necessary to explain what is hidden behind these facts. Every soldier knows that a first term serviceman is not authorized to attend civilian educational institutions. Not middle or higher institutes; not evening or correspondence branches. But, as we saw, Konovalov and Antonov successfully circumvented the law. With the help of their commanders, of course. Everything was done so subtly that you would not quickly uncover the traces. There is not a single document in the personnel section which would attest to Konovalov's systematic absences, although the records do confirm that he industriously took the examinations and tests in the prescribed time.

A question arises in this regard: why was this possible? If this question is considered from a broad perspective, why do responsible officials permit undue liberty with the law? Perhaps, through ignorance or inexperience?

Not just for these reasons it seems. It seems that one of the main reasons is that he who deviates from the requirements of the law hopes that he will not be held answerable in accordance with the law. One must suppose that this is exactly why military students-correspondence students are sometimes found. Sometimes a bathhouse unexpectedly appears and then disappears without a trace in the dead of night.

Such cases are impermissible. The law is written for everybody. And everybody is obligated to carry it out.

Without exception.

Report of Follow-Up Action

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Apr 77 p 2

[Unattributed article: "After the Appearance of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: The Bathhouse Disappears at Midnight"]

[Text] The topical satire published under this title on 1 February of this year told about the bathhouse which was used by a narrow circle of people

and also about violations of the Regulation on Compulsory Active Military Service and of military discipline in the military construction unit headed by Engineer-Colonel V. Shalyapin.

Major General of Tank Troops N. Barkov informed the editors that the facts cited in the satire were completely confirmed.

By order of the commander of the military construction organization, Engineer-Colonel V. Shalyapin was warned about incomplete compliance with service requirements and will be held responsible to the party for illegal construction of a bathhouse and gross violations of compulsory active military service procedures. Other guilty parties were also punished under disciplinary procedures.

The necessity for raising moral standards in the struggle for strict observance of the law and the necessity for strengthening educational work with the officer corps were pointed out to the unit political officer, Major A. Fedyanin who was assigned to this position in 1976.

Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel N. Klimenchenko was severely reprimanded for transferring draftees A. Konovalov and Yu. Antonov from the detachment ear-marked for unit X to another military unit without permission.

The conclusions from the topical satire "The Bathhouse Disappears at Midnight" and practical measures for eliminating the noted irregularities were discussed by command leadership personnel both in the political section at the unit's commanders' and political workers' conferences and at meetings of the subunit local party organizations.

All commanders and chiefs of political organizations were ordered to draw the necessary practical conclusions from the cases of legal violations cited in the topical satire, to take necessary measures for their prevention and to strengthen legal education work for officers and all personnel.

9001

CSO: 1801

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Training Deficiencies Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Feb 77 p 2

[Text] I and several of my comrades have worn warrant officer (praporshchik) shoulder straps for several years now. Many changes have occurred in our lives in the meantime. Our knowledge has grown and our professional and methodological skills have broadened. Our responsibilities and training demands have grown also. Training formations assist us in obtaining the requisite knowledge and experience.

I must say, however, that these formations would prove more effective for us if they were conducted with more deference paid to our various service branches. It makes little sense for officers and praporshchiki with far from mutual professional experience and general education to train together as a group.

It also would be worthwhile to give some thought to ways of varying lesson plans to bring them more into line with constraints of time. Indeed, one of the primary tasks of refresher training is to enrich us with new knowledge and to help us cope with the most complicated novel problems that we might encounter. Nevertheless, themes that have long ago been "run into the ground" usually are presented at the training sessions.

Similar shortcomings are observed during instructor and methodology lessons. We praporshchiki who deal in technical maintenance matters, for example, were recently given a lesson on the theme, "The Use of Tanks Under Winter Conditions." For a few hours we studied the manual for a situation which each one of us knew virtually by heart. What precisely is the value of such training? Wouldn't it have been more rewarding, instead of repeating truisms, to have shared our operational experiences in order to gain awareness of the most effective techniques and methods of applying winter technology?

The independent self-instruction of praporshchiki also merits closer scrutiny. We are constantly reminded that self-learning is a fundamental form

of training. Many praporshchiki, through painstaking effort, clearly have attained good success in improving combat skills. Praporshchik V. Geyko is an example. He uses every free moment to increase his ideological level and his knowledge of his specialty and tactical preparedness. He displays an intense interest in advances in science and technology, and has passed the external examinations for a full program of study at a military college.

Unfortunately, there also are praporshchiki who show only token interest in improving their professional skills, as evidenced by their use of every pretext imaginable to get excused from training periods. But rather than strongly reprimanding these praporshchiki, some leading officers display indulgent attitudes toward this behavior.

When their specific duties are taken into consideration, it is admittedly a difficult matter to organize an individualized program for praporshchiki, or to set up active control over their independent training. Nevertheless, these problems must be assessed periodically. The issue also is not confined to those unconscientious praporshchiki who require constant supervision. The habit of independent study is undeveloped in many of us. A decision was made in our regiment before the start of the training year that each officer and praporshchik should draw up a perspective plan for the instruction period covering the independent study of various tactical, technical, and special training themes. The matter is, of course, a worthwhile one. But the truth is that not one of us has yet drawn up his plan.

It also should be mentioned that on another occasion, instead of independent study, one praporshchik was obliged to study materials that a sergeant could have managed routinely. This is bound to have a negative effect on the performance by praporshchiki of their primary duties.

To summarize, many unresolved problems still exist in the organization of refresher training for praporshchiki. There is food here for thought by commanders, political organizers, and party organizers.--WO V. Kondrukevich

Shoe Supply Problem

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Feb 77 p 2

[Text] Senior Lieutenant V. Mazurenko's problems began last fall when his commander advised him in no uncertain terms not to appear at training in "frivolous" boots again. But there simply was no possible way that the senior lieutenant could obtain regulation boots. Supply had no size 12 boots with nonstandard width and the toes of his old boots had long ago outlived their usefulness. Wearing them had become unseemly.

The officer therefore took the boot pattern offered to him at supply and turned to the local army exchange shop with a request to sew him a new

pair. But the shop, which is managed by V. Rybak, respectfully declined the order. They do repair soles and heels. But when it comes to stitching a full boot, would you please beg their pardon.

The personal services department of the nearby garrison didn't come to the rescue either, nor did the director of the army exchange, himself, M. Verevkin. The senior lieutenant proceeded right on to Moscow. But neither the shoe department of the central army exchange department store nor the repair shop of the store was able to solve the problem: the one place didn't "supply" such a boot, while the other one "didn't have such boot lasts in stock." It remained for the senior lieutenant to return to his home garrison in the Moscow Antiaircraft District and to envy sincerely Uncle Stepa who, as is well known, acquired his giant-sized shoes without the slightest difficulty whatever.

From the Editor. We rarely receive such letters from our readers despite the fact that there are many outsized personnel in the army and navy. All of these servicemen are supplied with boots and shoes from a central depot. While those with foot sizes which clearly do not conform to factory standard sizes use the services of garrison shops.

Unfortunately, the trade administration of the Moscow Antiaircraft District had to admit to us that they do not provide these services within the district. Oddly enough, a shop on Kalinin Prospect in Moscow just recently agreed to fill an order from Senior Lieutenant Mazurenko. But doesn't it cost a pretty penny, both for the servicemen themselves and for the duties that they perform, for them to have to send miles and miles away to have a pair of boots stitched?--Engr-Capt V. Shurkhovetskiy

Living Quarters for Civilian Employees

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Feb 77 p 4

[Text] Our readers N. Kravchuk and F. Pavlov would like a summary of the procedures for the provision of living quarters to civilian employees of the Soviet Army and Navy.

In accordance with a decree of the USSR Council of Ministers and a statute on procedures for the assignment of living quarters, civilian employees of the army and navy attached to military units, installations, schools, and organizations of the Ministry of Defense and residing in urban cities and towns are provided living quarters by the executive committees of local soviets of worker deputies on a universal basis.

In certain cases, the assignment of living quarters to civilian workers residing in urban cities and towns can be made through the housing fund of the Ministry of Defense on the authority of commanders of forces in military districts, antiaircraft districts, or naval commands.

Civilian employees who work in military units, organizations, or enterprises of the Ministry of Defense that are located outside of city or town limits are provided housing at the site of their assignment through the fund of the units, installations, or enterprises. Civilian personnel of cost-accounting enterprises and organizations of the Ministry of Defense also may be assigned living quarters that are chargeable to the housing fund of such enterprises and organizations.

Civilian personnel of retail and personal services enterprises of military exchanges which are located outside of city and town limits are assigned living quarters through the housing fund of the military exchange and military garrisons; while personnel assigned to enterprises within cities and towns are allotted quarters by the executive committees of local soviets of worker deputies through the military exchange housing fund.

Quarters assignments are made at their place of work to individuals who have no working ties with the Ministry of Defense but who live in housing that is earmarked for demolition and is included on the balance sheet (account) of the ministry.

Individuals not working for the army or navy are not assigned living quarters from the military department housing fund.

The living quarters distribution between civilian employees is determined by coordination between the military headquarters (administration) and the local union committees. Allotment of living quarters is pursuant to quotas enacted into law by the individual republics. First priority housing is allotted to civilian personnel not occupying existing quarters. This includes those living in dormitories or hotels, auxiliary accommodations, sublet quarters, or reserved quarters.

ACTIONS ON READERS' REQUESTS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Feb 77 p 2

[Text] Emergency service member, Comrade Volodin's mother writes that she mailed printed matter to her son. Although the mail reached his unit, her son did not receive it.

A check within the unit, initiated at the request of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, confirmed the loss of the printed matter. Lieutenant Colonel Khokhlachev reports that officers Lushchiiy and Pushkov, who were at fault for the unsatisfactory handling of the mail, were punished by disciplinary action. The price of the printed matter was reimbursed to Comrade Volodin.

"I received my new apartment, but the floors were soaked and rotted. The builders refused to rectify these deficiencies," Captain Shpak wrote in a letter to the editor. His letter was forwarded to the construction administration of the Baltic Military District.

Colonel-Engineer Kobzarev reports that the shortcomings have been remedied: the apartment floors were repaired. Work superintendent Abakeliya was given a stern warning for his negligent attitude toward the complaints of apartment renters.

Comrades Lapin, Khrustalev, and Merkulov sent a letter of complaint to the editor on the inferior service offered to invalids of the Great Patriotic War in stores in the city of Zlatoust. The invalids were neither given head-of-the-line privileges in the stores nor was home delivery of their purchases made available.

Their letter was forwarded to the executive committee of the Zlatoust City Soviet of Worker Deputies. Chairman Pribytkov of the executive committee informed KRASNAYA ZVEZDA that the letter was discussed at a special meeting of the city food trade organization with all of the store managers. They were advised to provide head-of-the-line and home-delivery services to the Great Patriotic War invalids.

Private Dosyak's letter to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reported that government authorities refused to help his mother repair her home.

Executive committee chairman Kaykan of the Ivano-Frankovskaya Oblast Soviet of Worker Deputies responded to the editor's query by informing us that the serviceman's mother was in the process of receiving whatever help that would be necessary to repair her house.

Serviceman Krysh, a member of the reserve forces, sent a request to the headquarters of a military unit for a certificate of his military service. After getting no answer, he turned to the military commissariat for assistance. They dispatched an official inquiry to the military unit. But still no reply was sent. Comrade Onishchenko, the military commissar of the city of Shakhtinsk, then wrote a letter to the editor concerning this matter.

Air Force Major-General Krepskiy informs us that bureaucratism and procrastination did in fact play a role. Officers Kiselev and Mazyrkov were severely punished for their irresponsible handling of the mail. A record of his military service was forwarded to Comrade Krysh's place of residence.

The shortcomings in the mail handling that were uncovered during the inquiry were discussed with the senior personnel of the unit.

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CSO: 1801

COMPLAINTS FROM READERS DISCUSSED

Duty Officer Assignments Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Apr 77 p 2

/Text/ I admit that I went to the Chelyabinsk Military Aviation School for Navigators imeni 50th Anniversary of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League hoping that I would not meet with a confirmation of the facts contained in the letter to the editor. It was hard to believe that officers had for some time been being alternately detailed to remain in student barracks from evening until the following morning.

But alas, it soon became apparent that the writer of the disturbing letter was not exaggerating in the slightest. Lieutenant Colonels G. Kutorov, A. Kuz'min and O. Popov confirmed that in accordance with the school's established procedure, so-called "responsible personnel" come to each student subunit at the end of the independent study period. They come and they spend the night there.

What tasks are they assigned there? The answer to this question is contained in the special instructions drawn up at the school. "Know subunit personnel assignments," they say. "Monitor duty performance utilizing an internal subunit detail...." Surprisingly familiar phrases! Without any particular difficulty it can be established that they have been taken (admittedly, with some distortions) from the Internal Service Regulations of the Armed Forces of the USSR. As we know, however, the manual places these responsibilities with certain official personnel, not by any means with "responsible" duty personnel.

"Everybody should play an active role in educational work with the students," tries to explain Colonel S. Yermakov, head of the school's political division.

But his voice lacks confidence. One senses that the officer knows that these are not the methods to employ to accomplish this task. Indeed, military discipline in the Soviet Armed Forces is based on its personnel's high level of political consciousness and their profound understanding of their patriotic duty. True education and training assumes the development of certain convictions and qualities. But in this case we find thorough, goal-oriented work being replaced by contrived, exaggerated and overcautious reinsurance measures.

Other officers in the various departments and divisions also understand this. There is not one among them who would oppose active participation in educational work. Lieutenant Colonels A. Kuz'min and O. Popov used to make frequent visits to student subunits to give lectures or engage in conversations. Each time they left the barracks with a sense of satisfaction. It was good to see the bright gleam in the eyes of the youth and to feel that you yourself had helped form and develop the character of a future officer.

"But they look at us differently now," says Lieutenant Colonel G. Kutorov bitterly. "I went to the company for my regular "duty", and the students laughed and asked, "Are you spending the night with us tonight?"

Yes, the practice of making such "additions" to the manual in no way contributes to proper utilization of instructors. But if we study the matter closely we see that this is only one side of the coin. Commanders of student subunits find themselves in disadvantageous positions as well. They are now somehow distrusted by the students. And distrust, as we know, dampens enthusiasm. It appears to be not at all accidental that some platoon commanders now try to leave the barracks as early as possible. Why stay there? For indeed, responsibility for internal order and military discipline has been transferred to the shoulders of others.

It may be that the junior commanders are in an even worse position. It is difficult to become actively involved and make demands on your subordinates when you feel the presence of the "responsible officer" behind your back. He supervises the evening roll-call, reveille, morning calisthenics, and the morning inspection. It goes without saying, of course, that the sergeants need to be taught how to carry out their duty responsibilities properly. But it hardly makes sense to replace this task with the petty tutelage which is flourishing here.

As is evident, the school gives no thought to the moral aspect of "innovation". Indeed it contributes to the formation by the future officers of an erroneous view of the forms and methods

of educational work with the men and gives rise to the notion that the regulations can be changed and supplemented at one's own discretion.

Incidentally, there was to be found not a single person in the school who would declare that the introduction of "responsible" duty personnel had produced a substantial change in the state of affairs within the subunits. There were apparently no glaring omissions or shortcomings previously. As far as minor deficiencies are concerned, they still exist today.

"Then what sense does it make to resort to such measures?" The words were out in spite of myself.

"We certainly didn't invent all this! We're following instructions...."

It was explained that the school had received these instructions from the aviation staff of the Ural Military District. The document which contained them directed that "responsible" duty personnel be named from among the most highly trained officers. They were not only to be named; their last names and the subunit in which they were to keep night watch were to be reported daily.

It was late in the evening when I left the Chelyabinsk Military Aviation School for Navigators imeni 50th Anniversary of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League. The windows of the barracks and school buildings were brightly lit. I thought about the difficult and honorable service rendered by the school's officers and military instructors. Their intense and creative labor deserves the highest praise. For indeed, they teach the science of achievement and are training actively involved, ideologically well-oriented fighters for the cause of communism.

And now, after the lecture has been completed, many of them are continuing their work in the various departments and offices. Someone is trying to discover ways to improve the simulator created by the hands of skilled student experts. Someone else is writing a new training manual and a study on methods.

My thoughts also turned to those who took their turn as "responsible" duty personnel today. How long will these questionable experiments not provided for by the regulations be continued? Perhaps the appropriate officials from the Ural Military District will provide an answer to this question.

Unfair Report, Officer Complains

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Apr 77 p 2

[Text] Here is an excerpt from this letter:

"I was dealt with summarily," writes Major V. Mazurovskiy, an officer of the Kurgan oblast military commissariat, in his letter to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. "I have been introduced to efficiency reports more than once during my 22 years of service, and they have aroused the desire to improve my work. But in this case I was dealt a gross injustice, and nobody has even made an effort to remedy the situation...."

According to Mazurovskiy, his former commander, officer E. Yemel'yanov, having received an assignment to a higher position in another city, hurriedly compiled an efficiency report on him before he left, took advantage of the opportunity to employ the report as a weapon of revenge and left without acquainting him, Mazurovskiy, with its findings.

It was possible to verify this story only on the spot.

"I approved this efficiency report!" declared Colonel Petr Ignat'yevich Matolygin, oblast military commissar, appearing to assume he had put an end to the matter. He was astonished to hear of Mazurovskiy's complaint; why, he wondered, did Mazurovskiy not come to him immediately; they would have worked the problem out somehow. With a display of ingratiating courtesy E. Yemel'yanov himself refused to consider himself the object of any censure (he was then in Kurgan, having returned to pick up his family). Yes, admitted Eduard Afanas'yevich, there were occasions when I had to raise my voice. But it was only when it was necessary, as he expressed it, "to put the man in his place." Right there in my very presence he turned to Mazurovskiy and warned in a harsh voice, "We will punish you for slander!"

It was strange to hear all this; the investigation and verification of the complaint had only begun, and the man who had written it was already being deliberately threatened with punishment....

The content of the complaint spoke for itself, and one can understand the author: everyone who has chosen a military career views his efficiency report as an event of special significance; how his service performance is characterized is not a matter of indifference to him. Fair and dispassionate conclusions drawn in an efficiency report, along with well-meaning recommendations stimulate an officer to serious activity and contribute to his growth and development.

The contents of the efficiency report compiled by officer Yemel'yanov was far from meeting this description. Well-organized, for the most part calm and restrained--such was the opinion of many with whom I spoke in the military commissariat; Mazurovskiy declared that he disagreed with the report--it was written to settle personal accounts, as comrade Yemel'yanov had warned him before!

Such a sharp reaction to an efficiency report on the part of an officer should have alerted the command and disturbed the party organization and moved it to find out which one is right: the one who wrote the report, or the one being reported on.

However, in the four months which passed since the report was submitted nobody ever spoke with Mazurovskiy. The political section adopted a policy of noninterference.

I had occasion to talk to many people in the Kurgan oblast military commissariat. After you compare opinions and study the documents involved, you come to the conclusion that the conflict would not have developed had comrade Yemel'yanov adhered strictly to the regulations governing efficiency reports for officer personnel.

Before he writes up an efficiency report on a communist officer, an experienced, thoughtful commander will not fail to exchange views with the secretary of the party organization, as well as with the head of the political organ. He will also discuss items relating to service performance with the subject of the report; this practice, too, will no doubt predetermine to a great extent the educational effect and objectivity of the report.

Comrade Yemel'yanov preferred not to consult with anyone or speak to anyone about the matter. He began to write reports on division officers the day he received his orders for his new assignment. The, as they say, still "warm" reports were laid on the desk of the oblast military commissar the very same day. Colonel Matolygin approved them hurriedly since he himself was in a rush--his leave time had begun.

This haste in such an important matter can also be explained by the fact that the efficiency reports for the officers in the oblast military commissariat were overdue (one of them, a Major Ryabov, had received his last efficiency report 11 years ago). Yemel'yanov's approaching departure confronted the command of the military commissariat with the facts; they had only to accelerate work on what should have been done before, ahead of time, in a calm and well-thought-out fashion.

The report's conclusions came as a surprise to Mazurovskiy and deeply disturbed him. "He makes no effort to enter in to the many-sided life and activity of the division," E. Yemel'yanov writes about his subordinate. "He is a passive character who performs only a limited number of his duties. The senior commander has to supervise the execution of orders. Sometimes he puts his own interests above those of the service, displaying in such cases tactlessness toward his senior commander...."

Now, to begin with the "many-sided" life of the division that Mazurovskiy has somehow or other to get himself involved in, for the fourth year in a row now the communists have elected him as their party group organizer. This says a lot. But his efficiency report does not say a word about the officer's participation in party work or the social life of the collective.

It is difficult to say what comrade Yemel'yanov had in mind when he wrote in the report that officer Mazurovskiy "performs only a limited number of his duties." The issue is how the duties are performed. Besides, Mazurovskiy has a large number of duties to perform. Nobody ever had to worry about his area of work responsibility before. No disciplinary or party penalties have ever been imposed on the subject of the report.

The material in his personal file and the opinions of the secretary of the party organization and of his service colleagues allow us to draw the conclusion that V. Mazurovskiy is a disciplined officer. And during our conversations with him, the oblast military commissar did not deny that Mazurovskiy is an outstanding specialist and a literate and well-educated officer, and that nobody had ever observed any disrespect or tactlessness on his part toward his superiors.

What then was the problem? Why, in approving the document characterizing the officer, was the oblast military commissar not disturbed by the conflict of opinions about Mazurovskiy's qualities, between those expressed in this efficiency report and those contained in his previous report, where it was stated that he had proved himself an industrious worker who demonstrated initiative, a report approved, incidentally, right here in this very office?

Petr Ignat'yevich showed no interest at all in establishing the point at which the officer whom he himself not long ago had praised to the limit and promised advancement had suddenly fallen into the ranks of the "passive".

The oblast military commissar had faith in the judgement of comrade Yemel'yanov.

E. Yemel'yanov was appointed to head this division about three years ago. He came to the oblast military commissariat from a field assignment and, of course, had had no experience working in local organs of military command and control. We have to give him his due--he did not refuse the help of experienced subordinates, including Mazurovskiy.

But when success came Yemel'yanov adopted, God knows from where, a harsh manner toward other people which frequently turned into plain rudeness. This was also confirmed to me by Captain P. Petrov, the current secretary of the party organization in the military commissariat. "I've never been so offended in all my life!" he declared as he recalled instances which occurred during his service as a subordinate of Yemel'yanov's.

It really isn't necessary to demonstrate that the atmosphere in a collective and relations between its members depend to a great extent on the commander and on his personal example and tact. And rudeness and arrogance are certainly intolerable in a commander.

Eduard Afanas'yevich reached the point where he perceived the benefit of something to lie in its purely practical, economic results, in the equipment of any kind of technical facility. This made an impression on inspection commissions--on modern control panels they could see effectively illuminated signal boards with beautifully blinking lights.... Only the dilapidated old facilities of the assembly point, through which twice a year pass thousands of draftees, remain as always in their originally-existing primitivity, which provides not even a hint of basic conveniences, not to mention any esthetic qualities worthy of the time....

Apparently, Yemel'yanov was interested mainly in what his superiors thought about him. He stood on no ceremony and minced no words with subordinates--he could take advantage of his position in the service to obtain certain personal benefits and privileges, if one were speaking, say, of popular items and products in the local store. He neglected the interests of one, and in the process injured the other. He considered all this "small change".

As time passed, Yemel'yanov stopped listening to the opinions of his subordinates. One time, in the interest of the work at hand, Mazurovskiy expressed some doubt about a measure undertaken by the division chief and, as a specialist, and began to explain his ideas. Yemel'yanov cut him off sharply; he said he thought too much! The officer stopped short in mid-sentence.

Here is another typical incident. At the beginning of the summer Mazurovskiy was granted a family travel authorization, an infrequent event for an officer. The oblast military commissar had no objections. But then the division chief found out about it and declared that his subordinate would go nowhere and that his leave would be postponed until the fall (no special circumstances at that time dictated such a decision). Mazurovskiy tried to explain why he had to go for medical treatment. But Yemel'yanov didn't want to listen and peremptorily interrupted him "You are putting personal interests above social interests!"

These words were a painful blow to Mazurovskiy. He glanced mentally back over his life.

As a young man he worked in a fitter's shop in a plant in the Urals and graduated from a school for young working people. He began his army service as a soldier. He completed his military schooling with excellent ratings and was able to choose any district for service. He preferred the Ural Military District. For a long time he served in distant taiga-region garrisons... until he fell ill. He was transferred to the rayon military commissariat. And it was here, as it turned out, that he found himself--his superiors valued him; his comrades respected him and elected him secretary of the primary party organization. As one of the best men, he was then transferred to the oblast military commissariat at the suggestion of Colonel Matolygin himself. New horizons opened there for him.

The officer has devoted much effort to self-improvement; he completed his higher education by correspondence. He is still studying; he is already in his second course in the international relations department of the University of Marxism-Leninism of the Kurgan obkom of the CPSU; he passed all his first-course examinations with excellent marks....

That day, after hearing such a strange reproach, and still being so wound up by the tone with which his immediate superior had spoken to him, Mazurovskiy answered his senior officer sharply for the first time in all of his years in the service. Yemel'yanov eyed him coldly and said, "I have to write an efficiency report on you this year. And I will report you...."

"I should not have acted that way," Mazurovskiy then wrote in his letter, "but an undeserved offense had been flung in my face."

All these things taken together are convincing: it wasn't Mazurovskiy who had changed. It was the attitude toward him which had changed. But is it right that personal animosity should cast doubt on everything good that has been accumulated and inculcated in a person during long years of service?

Right after Yemel'yanov left we sampled an efficiency report he had written on another of his subordinates, Major L. Ryabov. This report was positive. But it aroused mixed feelings in us and provided more convincing evidence of the light-hearted approach which Yemel'yanov took to writing officers' efficiency reports. In fact, he had copied the entire first half and the final part of this report word for word from the efficiency report written on Major Ryabov for 1958. In so doing he had preserved all the stylistic errors and logical absurdities of the original. Colonel Matolygin had also approved this report.

The right of preparing an efficiency report is not only a high trust; it is also a responsibility, at the basis of which lies, above all, a profound party-minded approach. Any departure from the truth, any unobjectivity in evaluating the qualities of an officer has undesirable moral consequences and unavoidably produces a negative effect on the education and in general on the proper utilization and growth of our personnel. The Kurgan oblast military commissariat has had a sad experience on that account.

A relatively short time ago, Captain V. Krasin was recommended for independent work. Of course, nothing in the documentary presentation said anything about his shortcomings. So he was named rayon military commissar. But as a result of his professional and moral qualities, the officer was unable to head up this important area of responsibility. He soon had to be removed from his position because of gross neglect and made strictly answerable to party authorities.

After I returned from Kurgan I hoped that oblast military commissariat authorities would respond immediately to V. Mazurovskiy's complaint. I telephoned there twice. But no measures had yet been taken.

After all this it is hardly possible to say that affairs are in order in the Kurgan oblast military commissariat with respect to efficiency reports on officer personnel.

The efficiency report is one of the most important components of armed forces personnel policy. Its purpose is to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the political, professional and moral-military qualities of officer personnel and to determine their fitness for their present positions as well as for future consideration. So maybe we need to speak about the importance in this regard of adherence to principle and objectivity.

GENERAL'S MEMOIRS NOTE BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRONT

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 May 77 p 2 LD

[Book review by Lt Gen B. Dzotsiyev: "In the Fiery Years"]

[Excerpts] The second book of Army General N. Lyashchenko's memoirs "Years in an Overcoat" has been published. [Note] (N. Lyashchenko, Years in an Overcoat. Book Two. Thunder Over the Homeland. "Kyrgyzstan" publishers, 1976, 228 pp, price 93 kopeks). The first volume, "Commander's Youth," published in 1974, gained a good response from readers. The new book of memoirs covers the years 1941-1943.

As a regimental commander and then divisional commander, the author participated in battles in the Ukraine, defended Dnepropetrovsk, attacked at Barvenkovo, and broke through the Leningrad blockade. At the start of the great patriotic war he already had battles against the Fascists in Spain and study at the M.V. Frunze Academy under his belt.

The episode of meeting Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, the first Deputy chief of the front's political directorate, at the regiment's observation point is noteworthy. The author describes L. I. Brezhnev's visit to the firing positions of the antitank battery. The artillery men had just beaten off a tank attack by the enemy. The shell holes were still smoking, and the medical orderlies were bandaging the wounded. Gunner Kabaidze had just performed an heroic feat. Remaining alone at his gun, he had fought bravely. The soldier had died, but managed to knock out a Fascist tank with his last shell.

"A great pity that we are losing good people," Leonid Ilich said. "Real Soviet people. And there is more war ahead...."

The author stresses that our troops' forced retreat at the start of the war was not flight, as certain Western "strategists" and historians try to represent it. It was a withdrawal of troops during which we wore out the enemy. The Fascists had to do battle for practically every village and farmstead. In the course of battles great and small, new tactics were born and brave, fearless people were forged who then drove the Fascist invaders from our land and hoisted the banner of victory over Berlin.

But this was still to come, and for the moment, the author attests, our troops retreated along the difficult war roads of 1941 to the North Donets Bend. Red Army men and commanders went on foot, pushing carts and vehicles loaded to the limit out of the impassable mud. They were filthy and exhausted, but not broken in spirit. In December after fierce battles when the regiment liberated two villages from the Fascists, the men rejoiced at the event like a holiday. Battles of local importance were a rehearsal for the men of the coming winter offensive.

Army General N. Lyashchenko's memoirs evoke a feeling of patriotic pride in our socialist homeland, in our people, and in our Leninist party--the organizer of all our victories. The blood shed by our people was not in vain. The experience of the last war teaches vigilance to the new generations, and calls them to selfless labor for the good of their Soviet fatherland. The book reviewed will lead the reader to this conclusion.

CSO: 1801

CAREER OF FIGHTER SQUADRON COMMANDER TRACED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 77 p 6

[Article by Vil' Dorofeyev, PRAVDA Special Correspondent: "We Serve the Soviet Union!: Supplements To a Personal File"]

[Text] Silence. A moist hoarfrost descended on the concrete strip of the airfield. The paces of the sentries are lost in the viscous cotton of the fog. According to the schedule, however, aircraft turbines are supposed to be roaring now. But there still isn't any weather to perform the planned exercise. And my companion, Maj Gennadiy Vasil'yevich Mel'nichuk, becoming chilled from preflight stress, returns to earth, to the world of everyday affairs. The lean squadron commander, who appears to be poured into his flight jacket, is taciturn. He ends each brief phrase with a categorical "yes!" as if driving in nails: "Born. Yes!" "Studied. Yes!" The conversation doesn't hold together. The major looks at the pile of papers which have accumulated during the day with impatience.

Then, after leaving the squadron commander, I go to those who know him best: to the squadron pilots and to the party committee secretary. I speak with Mel'nichuk's wife and with his son, first-grader Aleshka. And each time, before me appears the image of a person which somehow resembles the one told to me by my previous contact, but still different. And that was how it was when the former squadron commander-1, now deputy regimental commander, said: "You study Mel'nichuk's personal file. Everything is reflected there. Everything is in a dynamic form."

Pilots of the older generation say: "Everything has changed in aviation over the last 15 to 20 years." But it is difficult to establish from the personal file of Maj Mel'nichuk just what happened with the present-day thirty-year-old people who today comprise the basis of the middle-level command echelon of our fighter aviation. The compressed wording of certificates and performance appraisals -- "industrious and persistent," "loves to fly" -- do not reveal the substance of the spurt which has been made by the major's generation. But if we were to combine them with the tales of people who know the squadron commander-1?

"Volunteered and was accepted for military service on 1 September 1964. Enrolled as a cadet in the Chernigov Higher Military Pilots' School." (From a confidential report.)

At the time when Mel'nichuk donned his cadet's shoulderboards, the program of the higher military air school combined within itself the load of a good engineering university with flight training. And although cadets performed their first flights in the sky in an operational training aircraft which already had a jet engine, their engineer-technical training was, of course, not designed for these machines. The cadets were being trained for equipment which was still to appear.

Aerodynamics, tactics, radio-electronics, materials resistance... Course projects and assignments... And along with the multitude of complex, special disciplines there also was the "gray bread" of military affairs: drill training, weapons training...

Mel'nichuk was not among those who completed the flight school with brilliance. He was, as they say, "a strong average."

"He flies boldly, with desire. His navigator training is good." (From another confidential report.)

In the years after graduation from the school there were various airfields in different parts of our country. And work, and more work -- in the sky and on the ground. Flights as a wingman, when one is comprehending the science of mutual help and coordination, and the basic commandment: "The wingman has no right to emotion or to passion. His entire being is for understanding the concept of the leader." Firings, bombings, advanced flying.

The wingman becomes the leader. Now Mel'nichuk has more and more occasion to enter the instructor's cockpit to train others. The digits on the winged aviation emblem on the right side of his jacket change: 3, 2, and finally, 1 -- first class military pilot. He took his initial steps in the sky in, from today's point of view, "slow" MIG-15 jet fighters. Then, during years of service with the troops, he approached expertise in the MIG-19 and the MIG-21, which comprised an entire era in jet aviation. It was in these machines that Mel'nichuk and his contemporaries broke the supersonic barrier.

And now the third generation of jet fighters -- with variable-geometry wings, which require the pilot to have not only the highest of ability, but also a solid reserve of engineer-technical knowledge. For Mel'nichuk and the other pilots, the abstract concept of "scientific-technical revolution" became concrete in this very machine, which had assimilated the achievements of Soviet science and technology.

But even having mastered the hidden capabilities of the supersonic machine, having understood to the last detail the features of the profession of a fighter pilot, and having become an experienced master at aerial combat, Mel'nichuk was far from being self-complacent. In that first conversation, which did not "gel" I asked Gennadiy Vasil'yevich the question: "What is the essence of the profession of a military pilot?" He answered laconically: "It lies in the work." And later, no matter with whom of his countrymen I was speaking, all of them sooner or later referred to Mel'nichuk's words: "A military pilot ceases to be one if he does not improve."

He would repeat them to himself and would say them to his subordinates when he was flight commander. He repeatedly uttered them even now, as head of the squadron.

"He trains personnel competently. He masters command skills well." (From still another confidential report.)

The clerk in the regimental headquarters had not yet finished typing the order, but everyone already knew: Mel'nichuk would be commander of 1st Squadron. He coolly accepted congratulations, outwardly the very same imperturbable and even-tempered, but in his soul... How was one to find the proper tone with the pilots? In the new position, how was one to retain contact, that understanding without hardly speaking, or even without words entirely, which is necessary for training, for service, and for aerial combat?

"In order to have the right to hold a serious conversation with experts in combat employment, a commander must be an order higher in flight training, as the mathematicians say." (From a speech by G. Mel'nichuk at a party meeting.)

How long does the average training flight in a fighter last? Around 30-40 minutes. How long does Mel'nichuk take to prepare for this half-hour in the training classrooms and on the trainers? Each of his take-offs is so masterly precise and so graceful in all its elements, that it seems you are seeing the fruits of free inspiration. Long hours of strenuous work on the ground give him this freedom.

And still, the personal expertise of an aerial fighting man is insufficient for the commander. The squadron's administration has many levels and is many-faceted.

Dozens of people, from the weapons technician to the squadron deputy commander for engineer-aviation service, prepare for the thirty-minute flight. Later their work, having been lifted into the skies, accumulates and is checked at supersonic speeds, in the swift maneuvers of the formidable combat machines.

Firming up this chain of many people and its every link thus became the crux of the squadron commander's activity. And for this one needs the higher mathematics of human science.

Regimental party committee secretary Maj D. P. Veretyushkin: "Mel'nichuk sees the essence of his position as an assignment to be an educator for other pilots. He requires that flight commanders be the same -- educators."

Capt Ye. S. Bylinkin: "He is very thorough. If something has been conceived, Mel'nichuk believes that it must be fulfilled without fail."

Pilot A. G. Tychina, the squadron commander's wingman: "I have had many teachers. But I recall more than any of them my mathematics instructor, I. R. Pagir, our class leader in Bryansk. Mel'nichuk is the very same: strict but understanding. This helps him be a commander."

The entire following day was again filled with dense fog. But now it was also filled with expectation: The forecasters predicted a change in the weather. Pilots readied themselves for the dash into the air. And in these long hours of impatience, still another feature of the squadron commander's character was revealed to me.

While remaining outwardly the very same -- imperturbable, even-tempered, constrained, he took upon himself a considerable portion of this uncertainty of forced waiting. Mel'nichuk patiently, unobtrusively went over each person's assignment again and again, made joking remarks, announced "smoke breaks" smilingly, laughed on hearing the latest amusing story, and himself would tell something. An atmosphere of confidence developed in the area where first squadron was located.

As we were walking along the empty streets of the compound, Mel'nichuk suddenly remarked, as if summing up the past day: "One becomes more exhausted in such hours than at a time of the most intense flights. There is nothing worse than to wait and to catch up."

Hardly a single word further was said that evening about service. They spoke about literature: about the firm poetry of E. Bagritskiy, about the plastic prose of A. Chekhov -- the beloved writers of Gennadiy Vasil'yevich and Lyudmila Petrovna. They spoke about the music of D. Shostakovich, whose records they carried with themselves as they moved from garrison to garrison.

Later the talk, somehow unnoticed, switched to the Primor'ye, where Gennadiy Vasil'yevich and his wife were born. Mel'nichuk told how the grass in the far eastern tayga smelled of the hot summer midday.

A new day came, and a sharp wind finally chased away the fog. Mel'nichuk departed for the zone in a two-seater with a new flight commander. I was not permitted to fly. This was vexing. It seemed that he was departing into the sky, and that thread of mutual understanding which still extended between us would again break. Something still not perceived, that was hidden from me in this person, would appear there on high, in the swift struggle of high speeds, altitude and space.

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BOOK ON BORDER TROOPS IN WW II REVIEWED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 77 p 3

[Article by Konstantin Simonov: "Among the Books: In the Fiery Years"]

[Text] Eight years ago I had occasion to review a book in the pages of PRAVDA entitled "Pogranichnyye voyska v gody Velikoy Otechestvennoy voyny 1941--1945" [Border Troops in the Years of the Great Patriotic War: 1941-1945], prepared by the Institute of History of the USSR Academy of Sciences, the Main Directorate of Border Troops, and the Central State Archives of the Soviet Army and published by the Izdatel'stvo "Nauka."

But an event of such a grandiose scale and significance as the Great Patriotic War naturally requires historians to return to this topic again and again. Previously unknown documents are found and placed in the scientific turnover. Their comparison and analysis permit us to arrive at more precise and scientifically adjusted generalizations.

Two volumes of documents devoted to the border troops in the years of the Great Patriotic War and published recently in the Izdatel'stvo "Nauka" are the result of this work.*

The eight years which went by between the two publications is a short period of time. But to be fair, it must be said that the compilers of the two volumes and the author of the foreword and notes have done a great deal of work during this time.

* "Pogranichnyye voyska SSSR v Velikoy Otechestvennoy voyne" [USSR Border Troops in the Great Patriotic War. Collection of documents and materials, Volume I (1941) and II (1942-1945) "Nauka," 1976.

While the first collection presented, analyzed and commented on a little over 400 documents, the number has risen to 1,000 in the present two volumes. The overall volume of the publication has doubled. But the most important point, of course, is not in the volume.

The assembled materials are striking in their diversity. They reveal with great completeness to the reader the very difficult, heroic work of the border troops in the severe years of trial.

Documents connected with the beginning of the war which have been preserved are assembled in the most thorough manner. It was the time when the border troops were first to enter battle with the fascist hordes. After this dramatic page in the history of our border troops follow others, which are in many respects no less exciting and at times no less dramatic. The border troops, who were supposed to guard the rear areas of fronts and armies, in fact in that situation of penetrations and encirclements and at moments when the situation was critical often performed the most difficult combat missions. Regiments and divisions were formed from the border troops and entered into combined-arms armies.

Many of the most interesting documents are devoted to that period of the war when our troops had again moved to the state border of the USSR. The border troops shouldered missions of eliminating numerous sabotage troops and fascist and nationalist bands and detachments, which created many difficulties for a normalization of the situation in territories liberated by the Soviet Army -- territories both of our own country and of the states adjoining it.

A great impression is left by the materials connected with the work of the border troops on those borders which during the war could be called peaceful in only a conditional sense.

Our border troops on a sector of the border which was enormous in extent, where a million-man Kwantung Army was massed on the other side, lived in special tension, in a state of minute-by-minute readiness.

A separate section is made up of documents connected with the combat operations of border troops in the days of the war with Japan, which was brief, but full of critical events. They help understand the extent of the participation of our border troops in these short-lived, fierce battles.

In conclusion, it remains to add that the chief compilers Ye. Solov'yev and A. Chugunov (he also is the author of the foreword and notes), as well as members of the group of authors T. Moskvitina, Ye. Sakharova and V. Chervyakov did a great deal to ensure that this publication was very convenient to

use. It is easy to orient oneself in the documents. It is possible to refer to the appropriate notes and to return to the analysis of these documents in the foreword -- in short, the scientific work is accessible to the broadest range of readers. This is especially important when we consider that these two volumes came out in a printing which exceeds by several times the first collection of documents on the history of the border troops in the Great Patriotic War.

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MILITARY-PATRIOTIC EDUCATION DISCUSSED AT TURKESTAN MD MEETING

Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 7 May 77 p 1 LD

[UZTAG report: "Attention and Concern for Military-Patriotic Education"]

[Text] Chiefs of creative unions, representatives of the intelligentsia and political workers gathered in the Red Banner Turkestan Military District Museum on 6 May for a meeting devoted to the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and to the tasks of military-patriotic education in light of the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress.

Opening the meeting, Col Gen S. Ye. Belonozhko, member of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan [CPUZ] Central Committee Bureau and commander of the military district, spoke of the Communist Party's enormous concern for educating young people in revolutionary, labor and combat traditions and of the important role of art and literature in shaping high political and moral qualities in young people and in our soldiers.

Those present were addressed by the following: Maj Gen V. S. Rodin, chief of the military district political directorate; V. M. Kozhevnikov, secretary of the USSR Writers Union; K. Yashen, first secretary of the Uzbek Writers Union; U. Ya. Ibragimov, chairman of the Uzbek Council of Ministers State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting; Z. I. Yesenbayev, chairman of the republic Council of Ministers State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants and the Book Trade; and E. Ye. Gafurzhanov, first secretary of the Uzbek Komsomol Central Committee. In their speeches they stressed the enormous significance of literature and art in shaping the ideological conviction of Soviet soldiers and further raising their combat training and readiness to perform with honor their sacred duty to defend the peaceful creative work of the Soviet people and the great achievements of October. It is the honorable obligation of the creative intelligentsia to provide daily assistance to commanders and political workers in educating soldiers in the spirit of socialist internationalism and Soviet patriotism.

Representatives of the creative unions spoke of plans by those working in art and literature to create works devoted to the heroic path of the land

of the Soviets, the glorious history of the Soviet Army and the courage and valor of the defenders of the motherland.

The creative work of writers, those working in the cinema and theater, artists and composers, the speakers noted, is inseparably linked with propaganda work and speeches by patrons to the troops. Meetings with soldiers are an inexhaustible source of creative inspiration and of new themes for artistic works on the everyday life of the country's armed forces.

CSO: 1801

VICTORY DAY ARTICLES

Marshal Kulikov Article

Moscow KOMSOMOL'SKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 May 77 p 1 LD

[Article by Marshal of the Soviet Union V. G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister: "Spring and Victory"]

[Excerpts] Victory Day! For millions of people it is a symbol of spring and peace. That is the way it coincided: Spring 1945 also brought the warmth of peaceful life after the protracted cold of the front.

The war was a severe trial for our state. Treacherously violating the generally accepted norms of international relations, Hitler's Germany struck a blow of incredible force against the Soviet Union. It was by precisely this surprise strike that the enemy intended to crush our country. At the appeal of the Communist Party the Soviet people rose up for the sacred struggle against the fascist invaders.

Guided by the Communist Party, the Soviet people not only overcame all the burdens of the war, but also routed the shock force of world imperialism--fascist Germany--and later militarist Japan. It was primarily the great ideas of Marxism-Leninism, the Soviet social and state system, the mighty socialist economy and our glorious armed forces which triumphed in this war.

In a speech at the ceremonial meeting devoted to the 30th anniversary of the victory, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said: "The Soviet people's outstanding feat during the Great Patriotic War is inseparable from the multifaceted, purposeful activity of the communists' party. Its Central Committee was the headquarter from which the supreme political and strategic leadership of military operation was implemented. It was precisely the party which organized and rallied tens of millions of people and directed their energy, their will and their actions toward one goal--victory."

The peoples of many other countries joyously celebrated the victory together with the Soviet people.

But peace did not reign on earth for long. Imperialism, which engenders wars, remained, its militarist nature had not changed and new ones took the place of the routed aggressors. War in Korea, Vietnam, the Near East and other points on the globe again sowed death and destruction. In the postwar period many countries were directly involved in various conflicts.

And only the socialist community states headed by the Soviet Union continue unshakably to uphold the positions of peace, providing their peoples with the opportunity to work tranquilly and to live with firm confidence in tomorrow. Under the CPSU's leadership the Soviet people are traveling the correct path of creative work, laying the material and technical foundation of the communist society.

Following Lenin's wise behests, the CPSU struggles tirelessly for peace and disarmament. But since capitalism is still hoping to resolve its dispute with socialism by military means, we need sufficiently mighty armed forces which are capable of routing any aggressor.

We always remember V. I. Lenin's direction that a revolution must be able to defend itself. This Leninist thought is reaffirmed once again in the CPSU Central Committee resolution "On the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution." Lately, the relaxation of tension which accords with the spirit of the peace program adopted by the 24th CPSU Congress and developed by the 25th CPSU Congress has been retarded by the efforts of the militarists and their henchmen. All this compels us to display concern every day for strengthening the country's defense capability.

At the present time the Soviet armed forces are an army and navy and also border and internal troops equipped with the latest equipment and the most modern weapons. Our firm socialist economy is the reliably economic foundation of military might. The working class entrusts first class missiles and aircraft, tanks and guns, warships and other types of armaments and military equipment to the defenders of the land of the Soviets.

Soviet soldiers persistently master the weapons entrusted to them, tirelessly improve their combat skill and enhance their combat readiness. The winter period of troop training has recently been completed successfully and its results have been summed up. The best subunits and units have been determined and the ranks of soldiers with "excellent" results and of specialists in their categories have been reinforced. An absolute majority of them are Komsomol members. They are yesterday's young workers and kolkhoz members and young students.

The Soviet army has always been a people's school. During its first years workers and peasants who sometimes did not know either how to read or write entered its ranks and returned home as literate people. Those remote times have long since receded into the past. However, the army still remains a school. During their [military] service many young people acquire the kind

of specialty which becomes a profession for one's whole life. But the main thing is that in the army a young person received high ideological and political and moral and psychological training.

Army Gen S. Sokolov Article

Moscow TRUD in Russian 9 May 77 p 1 LD

[Article by Army Gen S. Sokolov, USSR first deputy defense minister: "The People's Heroic Exploit"]

[Text] Thirty-two years ago, on 9 May 1945, the long-awaited news of victory over fascist Germany resounded across the world.

Our path to this radiant festival was an incredibly difficult and lone one. It is perhaps impossible to find in the many centuries of mankind's history any battles which, in terms of the scale of events and grandeur of heroic deeds, might be compared with the heroic exploit of the Soviet people in the years of the Great Patriotic War. All the material and spiritual forces of the country and of the broadest popular masses were strained to an unprecedented degree for 1,418 days and nights. For over 3 years we were fighting virtually alone against the colossal military machine of Hitler's Germany which had crushed almost all of Western Europe under its weight. There were thousands and thousands of kilometers of fire-swept roads on the front, each yard of which was soaked with blood, and day after day, round the clock, almost without a break, selfless labor went on at plants and factories, on the kolkhoz and sovkhoz fields and in scientific laboratories and design bureaus.

The great victory over fascism was achieved by the joint efforts of many peoples. The Soviet people always remember the courageous struggle of the people's liberation army of Yugoslavia, the heroic exploits of the armies and formations which were created by the patriots of Poland and Czechoslovakia, the popular uprisings in Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria, the liberation struggle of the Albanian people, the actions of partisan detachments in a number of other European countries, and the struggle of the antifascist underground within the enemy's camp. The peoples and armies of the states of the anti-Hitlerite coalition and also the members of the resistance movement made a great contribution to the common victory over the enemy.

But the Soviet people and their armed forces played the main role in routing fascist Germany. "Enduring the gravest ordeals," Comrade L. I. Brezhnev said in his speech devoted to the 30th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War, "the Soviet people upheld the honor and independence of the motherland and defended the gains of the October Revolution and the cause bequeathed to us by Vladimir Ilich Lenin. The heroic struggle of the Soviet people radically altered the course of World War II. Its battles developed over a vast area from the Atlantic to

the Pacific, from the ice of Greenland to the African deserts, although the main theater of hostilities was the Soviet-German front. It was essentially here that not only the destiny of the Soviet people, but also the destiny of all mankind was decided."

The victory over fascism showed that socialism is the most reliable bulwark of the cause of peace, democracy and social progress. Many countries were freed from the fascist yoke and they reestablished their independence. The routing of fascism and Japanese militarism during World War II, the CPSU Central Committee resolution "On the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution" emphasizes, and the victory of socialist revolutions in a number of countries of Europe and Asia accelerated peaceful development. The revolutionary process started by the Great October Revolution reached a qualitatively new level: the world system of socialism was formed. A radical change took place in the correlation of forces in the international arena.

We attained victory because our own dear Communist Party led us to it. It was the Communist Party that convincingly confirmed, by its all-embracing activity, the correctness of V. I. Lenin's prophetic conclusion that in the epoch of military trials, a militant party is the ideal of the party of the proletariat. Armed with the theory of Marxism-Leninism, with Lenin's teaching about the defense of the socialist fatherland and with the experience of the Civil War and peaceful construction, the CPSU, in the first few days following fascist Germany's treacherous attack on the USSR, devised a precise program for mobilizing all the country's forces for routing the enemy and subordinated all its organizational and ideological activity to achieving victory.

The unflinching fighters of Lenin's party, who numbered more than 3 million men in the army and navy alone, acted as the vanguard, cementing and inspiring force of the fighting masses. Every fourth serviceman was a party member. With their fervent appeals and personal example of heroism and courage, the communists carried their fellow-soldiers along to heroic exploits.

We are proud that the main creator of victory was the Soviet people who brought off an exploit unparalleled in history. It must be said that the outcome of the war was decided not only on the battlefields, but also in the great battle that developed throughout the country for metal, combat equipment and grain. The working class, kolkhoz peasantry and Soviet intelligentsia, through their selfless labor wrought victory over the enemy together with the servicemen of the armed forces, and throughout the war they nourished the army with reserves of manpower, equipped it with weapons and maintained its morale and will for victory. Our army was linked with the country's home front by thousands of separate threads.

The line of the front ran through plants and factories, mines, oilfields, pits and construction sites and the kolkhoz fields. We needed about a year to place the national economy on a war footing--only half the time

that the capitalist countries of the anti-Hitlerite coalition took. Over the war years Soviet industry produced almost twice as much combat equipment as did fascist Germany. In the east of the country alone, during the years 1942-1944, some 2,250 major industrial enterprises were built. The party and government rated highly the great heroic exploit of the Soviet people on the home front, and awarded orders and medals to more than 204,000 of its sons and daughters.

The most important source of our victory was the inviolable friendship and brotherhood of the peoples of the USSR. Emissaries of all nations and nationalities came to the defense of their common motherland.

Our motherland is today greeting Victory Day in the full flush of its creative strength and creativity. This year is a special one--it is the year of the 60th anniversary of the October Revolution. The Soviet people, including the servicemen of the army and navy, are doing everything to mark this glorious jubilee with new achievements in creative labor and in the defense of the socialist fatherland. The constantly growing influence of the ideas of the 25th CPSU Congress is being felt in all spheres of social life. The 10th Five-Year Plan has started successfully. The results of its first year attest that the development of our national economy is proceeding in full accordance with the congress' aims.

The Soviet state's foreign policy steps have also been marked by considerable successes. The CPSU Central Committee, and the Central Committee Politburo, headed by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, are performing tremendous work on strengthening peace and implementing the Leninist principles of peaceful coexistence among states with different social systems as a result of the efforts of the Soviet Union and of the other countries of the socialist community and of all peace-loving forces, a shift has been successfully achieved away from cold war and toward detente, and the threat of world war has been successfully pushed back.

At the same time it is impossible not to see difficulties and obstacles in the path of firmly establishing detente. Although imperialism's potential for aggressive actions has been curtailed, its nature remains the same. Just recently, aggressive forces of the leading capitalist countries have considerably stepped up their militaristic, subversive activity, seeking to return the world to the cold war times. In a number of capitalist countries frantic propaganda of anticommunism and anti-Sovietism has been launched. Every possible kind of fabrication about so-called "Soviet threat" is being disseminated and attempts are being made to distort the meaning of detente.

At the same time, taking shelter behind the anti-Soviet slander campaign, representatives of the military-industrial complex of a number of capitalist countries and the NATO leaders are feverishly developing military preparations and are speeding on the arms race. Thus in the United States the military budget for 1977 reached a record level and exceeded \$113 billion.

In the West European countries of NATO as a whole, military spending over the last 5 years has more than doubled.

It is perfectly natural and logical that under these conditions the Soviet Union has been forced to take steps to reliably defend its own gains. Thanks to the concern of the party and government, the USSR armed forces are being reinforced with modern weapons and combat equipment, however, the strength of the army and navy is not just characterized by modern armaments. It depends just as much, if not more, on the men who are called upon to make efficient use of these armaments and on their moral-political, psychological and combat qualities.

Almost every military serviceman has a higher, secondary or incomplete secondary education. About half the officers are engineers or technicians. Almost all the commanders of formations and regiments and all the first and second-class commanders of ships are officers with a higher education. Nine out of 10 officers are communists or Komsomol members. They are people with a lofty sense of duty and high responsibility.

The results of the winter period of training are now being summed up in the army and navy. These results attest that the words and pledges of the servicemen do not deviate from what they are actually doing on the training fields and ranges, at launch areas and airfields. When on watch, and during flights and sea patrols the personnel are persistently mastering the complex science of winning and are enhancing their combat skill. During the winter training, the number of excellent servicemen and class specialists in the units and on the ships increased and new unutilized reserves for further enhancing combat readiness were brought to light. In terms of the technical potential, ideological-political maturity and training of the personnel, all branches of the armed forces are abreast of contemporary requirements.

Speaking at Tula at the celebrations connected with the presentation of the "Red Star" medal to the hero city, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, said: "The lessons of the last war call upon us to be vigilant. Yes, fascism has been overthrown. But there are still fascists and pro-fascist regimes. Some people are still dreaming of revenge. Aggressive forces exist which are by no means idle. This must not be forgotten." The sons and grandsons of those who achieved victory remember this. Soviet servicemen are keeping a vigilant eye on the intrigues of the aggressive forces and are ready to execute any order their motherland may issue.

CSO: 1801

REVIEW OF SEVENTH VOLUME OF HISTORY OF WW II

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 May 77 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Marshal of the Soviet Union I. Bagramyan review: "A Fundamental Shift"]

[Text] The publication of that fundamental scientific work, "The History of World War II 1939-1945" is continuing. This voluminous analysis is being carried out by the USSR Ministry of Defense's Institute of Military History in collaboration with the CPSU Central Committee's Institute of Marxism-Leninism and the USSR Academy of Sciences' Institute of General History and Institute of History of the USSR. The seventh and latest volume was published recently. It embraces the events which took place from the spring to the end of 1943. That period was marked by profound and irreversible changes in the military, socioeconomic and political lives of the opposing sides, which led to the completion of a fundamental shift in the war to the advantage of the anti-Hitler coalition. Not only is there a scientific elucidation of the problems of the armed struggle provided in the volume but also a thorough analysis of the development of the economies of the belligerent countries. The authors exploited the most up to date research of Soviet and foreign historians as well as voluminous documentary material in preparing the book.

At the beginning of the work, the authors analyze the military and political situation which had come about by the summer of 1943, the state of the armed forces of the combatant states and the political goals and strategic plans. The book shows convincingly how the leaders of the Third Reich still regarded the Soviet-German front as the main arena of the struggle and directed there the main efforts of the military machine of the Fascist bloc. Attempting to take their revenge for the defeat at Stalingrad and regain the strategic initiative, Hitler's Command decided to mount a powerful offensive at Kursk. They were striving to alter the course of the war in their favor.

The authors show how the Soviet Supreme High Command countered the plan of Hitler Command with their own plan. Headquarters adopted the decision to go over to the defensive in the region of the Kursk bulge so as to wear down the enemy's tank groupings in the course of a defensive battle.

The book stresses that the soviet forces' defensive--avoiding needless losses and then mounting a counterattack--was not forced but premeditated. A situation which is very rare in military history took place--the stronger side moved over to the defensive. That decision is striking evidence of the creative approach of the Soviet Supreme High Command to the strategic problems of the war. The battle of Kursk can safely be called a triumph of Soviet military art.

An extensive analysis of this, the largest battle of the Great Patriotic War, is given in the volume. It was fought July-August 1943 in the Kursk bulge. Enormous masses of troops and combat equipment were involved in the battle. The authors are correct in their views of the Battle of Kursk as a combination of one defensive and two offensive operations which were conceived and executed by our Supreme High Command as one single and indivisible whole. The victory of the Soviet Armed Forces at Kursk, the volume points out, marked the collapse of the last attempt by the Wehrmacht to seize the strategic initiative. The German Fascist Forces sustained irreplaceable losses. The Hitler Command was forced to go over to the defensive on all the fronts of World War II.

Even during the Battle of Kursk the Soviet Army was launching a general offensive on the western and south-western axes. As a result of intense struggle the Soviet Army achieved new outstanding successes. It cleared the left-bank Ukraine and the Donbass region of invaders, advanced into the eastern regions of Belorussia, forced a crossing over the Dnieper and captured the bridgehead on its right bank.

Marxist-Leninist scientific analysis of factual material has enabled the authors to substantiate a most important conclusion--that the Soviet Army's successful resolution of the great military and political tasks on the main front of World War II predetermined, by the end of 1943, the completion of a fundamental shift not only in the Great Patriotic War but also in the whole of World War II.

A substantial place in volume seven is devoted to events which took place in other theaters of war--the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, the Pacific and Asia. As a result of offensive actions mounted in the summer and fall of 1943 Anglo-American Forces occupied Sicily and the southern part of the Apennine peninsula. Italy capitulated. The successes of the Anglo-American Forces, the book stresses with justice, were possible thanks to the crushing blows of the Soviet Army on the Soviet-German front.

The armed struggle being fought at that period in other theaters had comparatively little influence on the general course of World War II. This conclusion by the authors today is as topical as can be. In the West, and the United States numerous attempts are now being made to distort the history of the war and to make it look as if it were precisely the allies who inflicted the main decisive blows on the enemy. In the year of the fundamental shift World War II still had a mainly continental nature, since the main tasks of the armed

struggle were being decided on dry land. Military operations on the sea were of secondary [vspomogatelnyy] significance. The fundamental shift in the course of the war was already accomplished before the main forces of the Western Allies entered the struggle. It was achieved on the Soviet-German front.

In analyzing the military, political and economic processes which determined the completion of the fundamental shift in the war, the authors of the work do not restrict themselves to merely analyzing the aforementioned stage of the war. They link it closely with the preceding stage--the winter campaign of 1942-43. This has enabled them to provide a full and integral picture of the military and political results of the fundamental shift.

The work does not ignore in this the real contribution of the participants in the anti-Hitler coalition in achieving the fundamental shift. However, objective criteria have been taken as the basis of the appraisal. They include: the number of formations and troops of Nazi Germany and its allies which were in action against various states; the scale, intensity and duration of military operations in the theaters of war and the losses of the fascist bloc in personnel and combat equipment on various fronts. The factual data which is cited shows convincingly that it was precisely the Soviet Union which made the decisive contribution to the defeat of the main groupings of the Hitlerite bloc in 1943.

This volume devotes great attention to the economies of the combatant countries as the most important factor determining the success of the armed struggle and the achievement of the outlined political and strategic goals. Materials cited here show that the Soviet economy in 1943 insured that the front was supplied regularly with continually improved combat equipment. The industry of fascist Germany, using the resources of almost the whole of Europe, in 1943 substantially increased its output of combat equipment, but it never managed to achieve the Soviet level of military production. The German military economy manifestly gave way to that of the Soviet Union. The complete groundlessness of claims by bourgeois historians that the economic might of the United States had a decisive influence on the course of World War II is revealed in light of the facts cited. The Soviet Union exploited its resources to the maximum in the interests of waging the armed struggle at a time when government circles of the United States and Britain, having no interest in speeding up the end of the war, did not use most of their manufactured combat equipment in operations.

The materials in the volume devoted to the Soviet economy prove convincingly that its mighty growth combined the Leninist wisdom of the party leadership, the consciousness and unparalleled enthusiasm of the masses and the high organizational abilities of the leaders of the people's commissariats, enterprises, scientific and other establishments.

Together with the victories on the fronts and the strengthening of the military and economic might of the USSR there was also an increase in the international authority of the Land of October and the creation of favorable

conditions for the even greater activation of Soviet foreign policy. The book notes that the struggle to strengthen the antifascist coalition and to defeat the enemy as soon as possible demanded great efforts from the Soviet leadership. The British and U.S. governments avoided carrying out their pledges in respect of opening a second front. However, in the second half of 1943 the U.S. and British foreign policies underwent changes under the influence of the Soviet Union's victories. This made it possible to solve one of the most important military and political problems of World War II--the teaching of an agreement to open a second front in the spring of 1944.

The Soviet Union's outstanding victories were an outstanding factor in the development of the National Liberation Antifascist Movement. The volume analyzes in detail the problems of the national liberation struggle at the concluding stage of the fundamental shift in the course of World War II and notes its role in weakening the strength of the fascist bloc.

The work under review reveals in depth the role of the Communist Party as the organizer and inspirer of the nationwide struggle against the fascist invaders. The party managed to mobilize all the material and spiritual forces of the country in the interests of the armed struggle and to maintain the unity of political and military strategies. Using its accumulated experience, the party improved the system of military economy, directed the further strengthening of the Soviet Army and a nationwide struggle at the rear of the enemy, raised ideological work to new heights, systematically increased the volume of restoration work in the liberated regions and solved tasks connected with the strengthening of the anti-Hitler coalition.

The seventh volume of "The History of World War II 1939-1945" is a valuable contribution to our historical science, which not only preserves and interprets the glorious combat past of the Soviet people but also enables contemporaries to orientate themselves correctly in the complex events of the present day.

CSO: 1801

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